

MINUTES
SUBSEQUENT ANNUAL TOWN BUDGET MEETING
TOWN OF ELLINGTON
May 24, 2006

Electors and citizens qualified to vote in Town Meetings were hereby notified that the Subsequent Annual Town Budget Meeting of the Town of Ellington would be held on Wednesday, May 24, 2006 at 8:00 p.m. prevailing time at the Ellington High School, 37 Maple Street, for the following purposes:

First Selectman Michael Stupinski called the meeting to order at 8:05 p.m., and read the warning for the meeting which was published in the Journal Inquirer on Wednesday May 19, 2006 and is recorded in these records preceding these minutes. Mr. Stupinski then asked for nominations for a Moderator.

Al Lawrence nominated **Atherton Ryan** as moderator seconded by **Robert Clements**, vote by acclamation was unanimous, motion so carried.

Motion (**A. Leo Miller**) to close nominations for moderator. Seconded by (**Robert Pagani**) Motion carried.

The Moderator then read the warning for the meeting.

Shall the Town of Ellington appropriate, upon the recommendation of and as allocated by the Board of Finance, the total sum for all expenditures, a/k/a budget grand total, for the fiscal year 2006-2007 the sum of \$(such sum as recommended by the Board of Finance).

Michael Stupinski, made the motion to adjourn the town meeting to a referendum to be held on May 31, 2006 at the Ellington High School at 37 Maple St., from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Seconded by **Nora Willis**.

Attorney Ryan asked for a motion to approve the budget as recommended by the Board of Finance in the amount of \$39,571,991.00. Motion (**Robert Pagani**) to approve the budget amount. Seconded (**Robert Clements**)

Subordinate Motion (**A. Leo Miller**) to send this budget to a referendum Wednesday May 31, 2006 at Ellington High School between the hours of 6:00 am and 8:00 pm. Seconded (**Nora Willis**).

Discussion began.

Mr. Miller feels that the voters will be disenfranchised if we take away the chance to vote at referendum.

Bruce Fader disagrees with Mr. Miller stating that this meeting was published and more people should be interested in the Town Meeting process. Mr. Fader feels that the voters are not disenfranchised if the budget is voted on tonight.

At this time several residents spoke in favor and against sending the vote to referendum.

The question was asked whether or not the budget amount could be changed at Town Meeting. The amount of the budget could only be amended to further decrease but not increase or add back any line items that were presented by the Board of Finance. The Town Meeting only has the power to approve the budget as presented or reduce the bottom line.

Motion (**Michael Stupinski**) to close the debate. Seconded (**Robert Clements**).

Vote to close off debate could not be determined by voice count. Mr. Ryan then appointed two counters and asked for those in favor to stand and then asked those opposed to stand.

64 persons in favor of closing the debate. 23 persons opposed to closing the debate. Motion to close debate so carried.

Mr. Ryan then asked for a vote on Mr. Miller's original motion to send the vote to a referendum. **43 persons voted to send the Budget to a referendum. 45 persons voted to approve the budget amount tonight.** Motion to send budget to referendum defeated.

Mr. Pagani then went on to discuss the actual budget explaining what cuts had been made at the budget deliberations meeting last night.

Mr. Pagani then said it was his intention to resign as Chairman of the Board of Finance tomorrow.

Motion (**Maria King**) to reconsider the motion to send the budget to referendum. Seconded (**Bruce Fader**)

Discussion began.

Several people said that it should be made clear that the budget could be voted on at the Town Meeting and does not necessarily have to go to a referendum. Many residents agreed that voting tonight would not be fair to all residents.

Many residents spoke on the budget voting process. Mr. Ryan explained that nothing illegal would occur should the vote be taken tonight.

Mr. Feldman said that it is very disappointing to have such a low turnout at referendums. He encourages better voter turnout to prevent the possibility of voting on the budget at the Town Meeting which is what could have happened tonight.

Motion (**William Harford**) to move the question to send budget vote to referendum and close debate. Seconded (**Lawrence Walbridge**) Motion carried.

Mr. Ryan referred to the main motion/second to approve the recommended budget amount and called for a vote. Motion carried.

Mr. Ryan then asked if there were further questions.

Beverly Russo was concerned that the mill rate was still too high and asked about the revaluation process. She felt it was not accurate. Mr. Miller stated that the tax rate is fair. Mr. Miller has reservations as to the accuracy of the revaluation process. Mr. Stupinski said that he felt VisionAppraisal did an excellent job with the recent revaluation process. The most recent sales are being tracked by the Assessors office and have been very precise compared to the appraised value.

Deanna Piotrowski commended the Board of Finance for the job they did on the budget.

Lee Curry asked for some clarifications on the budget. She stated that she also hoped Mr. Pagani would reconsider resigning as chairman of the Board of Finance as he has had so many years experience in town government.

Motion (**Anthony Littizzio**) to adjourn the Town Meeting at 10:05 p.m.. Seconded (**Yale Cantor**) Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Diane H. McKeegan".

Diane H. McKeegan, Asst Town Clerk

Received for record:
May 30, 2006 @ 8:30 am



MICHAEL P. STUPINSKI
First Selectman

STATE OF CONNECTICUT • COUNTY OF TOLLAND
INCORPORATED 1786

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TOWN OF ELLINGTON

2006 MAY 18 A 11:26

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NANCY O. WAY
Deputy First Selectman

PETER J. CHARTER
DENNIS W. FRAWLEY
ANN L. HARFORD
A. LEO MILLER, JR.
JAMES M. PRICHARD

WARNING

NOTICE OF SUBSEQUENT ANNUAL TOWN BUDGET MEETING TOWN OF ELLINGTON MAY 24, 2006

As the Annual Town Budget was defeated at referendum held on May 17, 2006, electors and citizens qualified to vote in Town Meetings are hereby notified that a subsequent Annual Town Budget Meeting of the Town of Ellington will be held on Wednesday, May 24, 2006 at 8:00 p.m. prevailing time at the Ellington High School, 37 Maple Street, for the following purpose:

To consider and appropriate upon the recommendation of and as allocated by the Board of Finance the total sum for all expenditures, a/k/a budget grand total, for the fiscal year 2006-2007 the sum of \$ (such sum as recommended by the Board of Finance).

Dated at Ellington, Connecticut, this 18th day of May, 2006.

PER TOWN CHARTER
SECTION 1006

Michael P. Stupinski
First Selectman

Journal Inquirer – Publish date: 5/19/06